

MARVEL 007

TAYLOR
WATANABE
GURU-eFX

SUPERIOR IRON MAN[®]





BE BEAUTIFUL • BE INTELLIGENT • BE HEALTHY • BE IMMORTAL

BE SUPERIOR



Tony Stark is a technological visionary...a famous, wealthy and unparalleled inventor. With the world's most advanced and powerful suit of armor, Stark has valiantly protected the innocent as the golden Avenger known as IRON MAN.

A recent battle with a mentally powered villain has altered Stark's mind. With a more arrogant and aggressive personality surfacing, Stark used San Francisco to beta test his newest invention...THE EXTREMIS 3.0 App. It can improve people's lives, making them more attractive, smarter and healthier...for a cost.

To further his own questionable agenda, Tony blackmailed the U.S. government into paying him not to sell the plans to a global doomsday device. The reason? So he could use the money to buy his very own media company to further his reach and influence. Unfortunately for him, Pepper Potts bought the company out from under him and then lured him to Resilient's corporate headquarters so that a virtual version of Tony Stark could put this "new" Tony down, once and for all.

CHAPTER 7: STARK CONTRAST

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Joe Quesada Chief Creative Officer

Dan Buckley Publisher

Alan Fine Executive Producer

**Iron Man created by Stan Lee,
Don Heck, Larry Lieber and Jack Kirby**





WELL, YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE I'VE DISAPPOINTED, AND I DOUBT YOU'LL BE THE LAST.



YES.

A FULL BACKUP OF MY MIND IN CASE ANYTHING EVER WENT WRONG AGAIN.



I ASKED PEPPER, AND PROBABLY HAPPY, TO KEEP IT A SECRET FROM ME, THEN I ERASED THE KNOWLEDGE FROM MY OWN MIND?

A SHORT-TERM MIND-WIPE, THEN TWO BOTTLES OF TEQUILA AND A TRULY PUNISHING HANGOVER TO THROW YOU OFF THE SCENT.



YOU'VE BEEN BUSY.

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING HERE?



TNK



SO, WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

NOW, I GO INTO YOUR HEAD AND TRY TO UNDO WHATEVER'S BEEN DONE TO YOU.

I GET YOU BACK.

AND IF YOU CAN'T?

THEN I DO WHAT YOU PLANNED.



I REPLACE YOU.



LOOKING INTO ALL THE QUESTIONABLE THINGS YOU'VE DONE IN THAT TIME, I DON'T THINK ANYONE WILL MISS THE TONY STARK OF THE LAST EIGHT YEARS.



TOO



TOO



TOO







WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

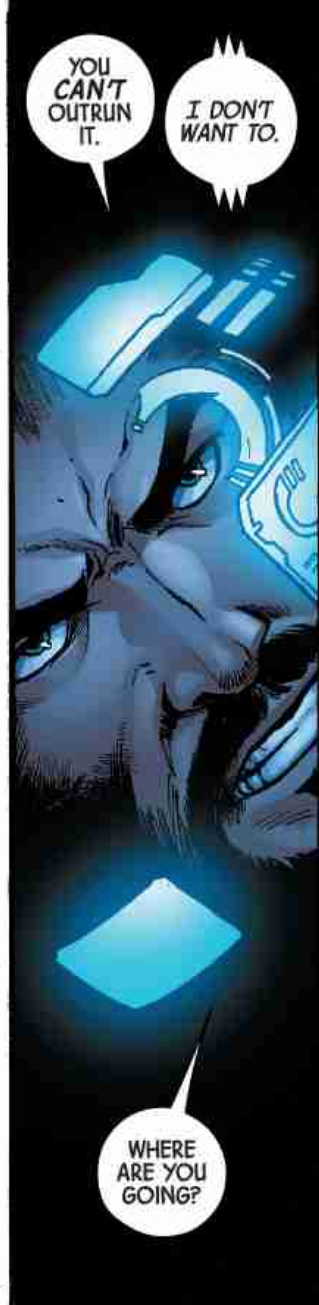


WE'RE
GOING FOR A
LITTLE TRIP.









I'VE
MADE SOME
UPGRADES.





NOW, MY THEORY IS THAT THERE'S A SMALL AMOUNT OF CONSCIOUSNESS IN YOUR NEW ARMOR, BUT NOT TOO MUCH INTELLIGENCE.

JUST A LINK.



ENOUGH THAT IT WILL ALWAYS KEEP COMING.



IT WILL ALWAYS FOLLOW YOU.



EVEN TO PLACES IT'S NOT BUILT TO GO.



LIKE SOMEWHERE WITHOUT OXYGEN, WHERE ITS JETS CAN'T FIRE.



"DON'T STRUGGLE. YOU'RE HELPLESS."



RAAARGH!



TRY TO CALM DOWN, JAMIE. YOU'RE IN A CONTAINMENT FIELD. THERE'S NOTHING TO HIT. THERE'S NOTHING TO FIGHT AGAINST.



I WANT TO LET YOU GO. I DO.

BUT FIRST I NEED YOU TO PROMISE YOU WON'T GO ON A BUILDING-DESTROYING RAMPAGE.



I KNOW YOU'RE ANGRY. I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED. BUT I JUST WANT TO TALK.

CAN WE DO THAT?



...OKAY.



TONY
SENT ME THE
INFORMATION.

I KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE.



I
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED.



AND I'M
SORRY.



I KNOW TONY IS CHARMING
AND YOU'RE PROBABLY
LOYAL TO HIM. BUT
THAT MAN IS **NOT**
TONY STARK.

I KNOW
HIM, PROBABLY
BETTER THAN
ANYONE. AND
HE'S CHANGED.
CORRUPTED.



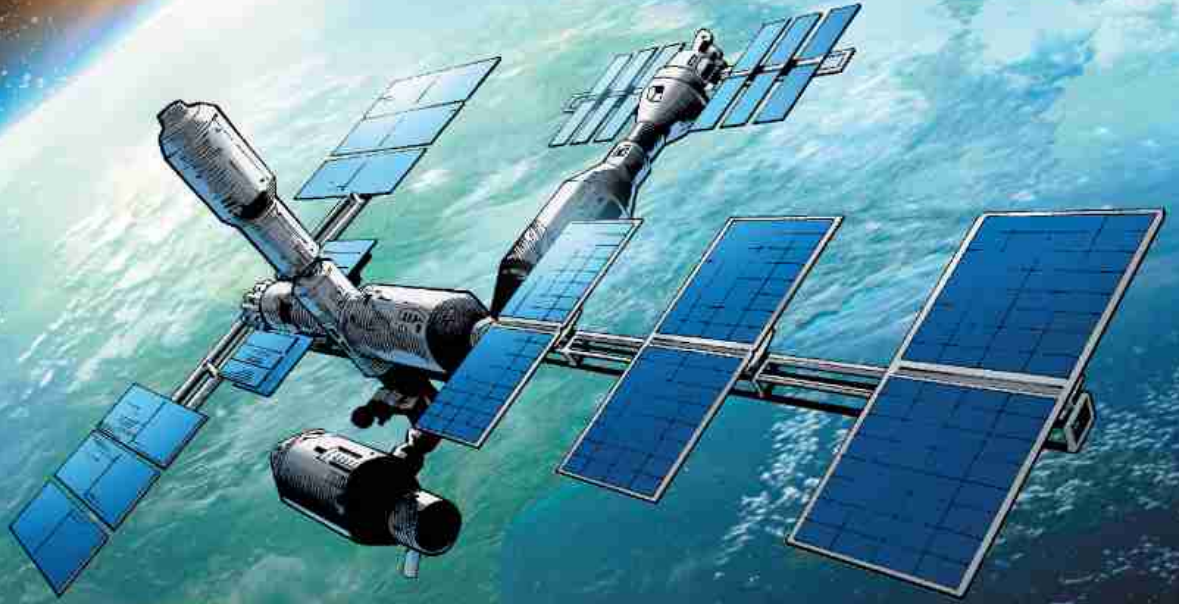
I WANT THE
MAN I KNOW
BACK. BELIEVE ME
WHEN I SAY I
WOULD NEVER HURT
TONY. I ONLY
WANT TO
SAVE HIM.

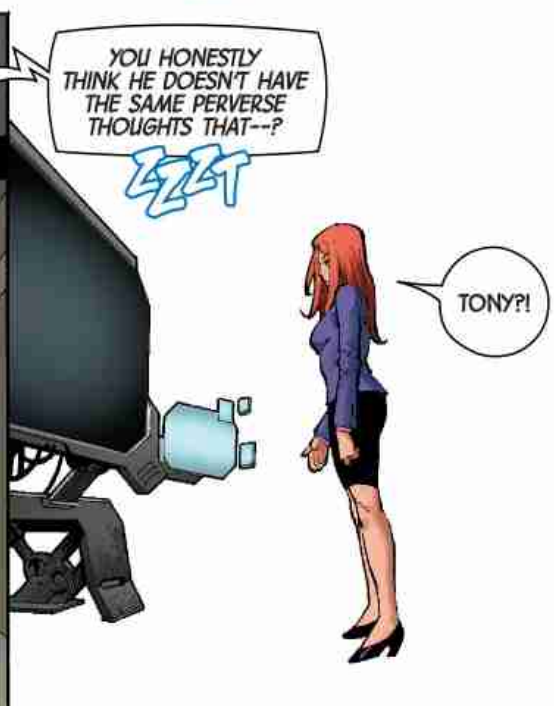
WHERE
IS HE?

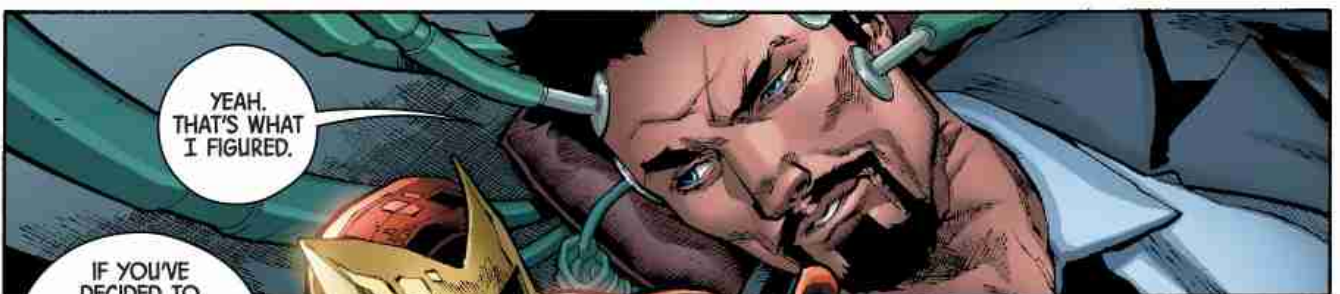
HE'S...

HE'S...
WELL--

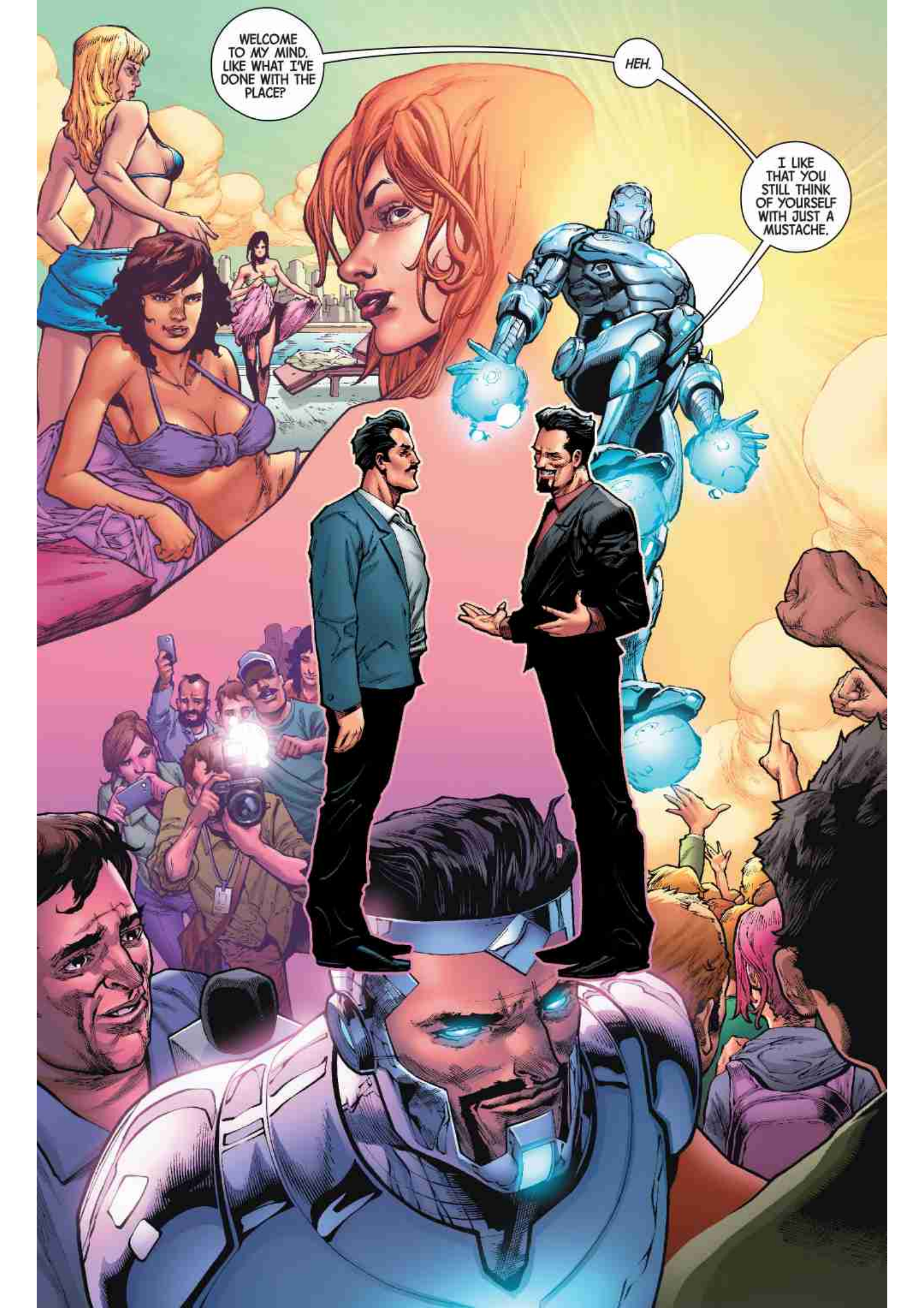
"—HE'S SOMEWHERE HE
CAN'T HURT ANYONE."











WELCOME
TO MY MIND.
LIKE WHAT I'VE
DONE WITH THE
PLACE?

HEH.

I LIKE
THAT YOU
STILL THINK
OF YOURSELF
WITH JUST A
MUSTACHE.





TO BE
CONTINUED...

SUPERIOR CLASS MAIL



SEND YOUR E-MAILS TO MONDOMARVEL@MARVEL.COM (Please mark them "OK to print")

Welcome back to SUPERIOR CLASS MAIL, Superior Shellhead fans! Getting lots of e-mails and I thought it would be fun to have writer extraordinaire Tom Taylor answer your letters. - Mark Paniccia

Having just recently fallen back into the habit of comic reading, I couldn't have started over with anything better than SUPERIOR IRON MAN. I've always been partial to characters that I can relate to in one way or another and I know for sure that if I were in Tony's shoes, I wouldn't always have the strongest set of morals. Keep up the awesome work on a great idea!

Derek Armstrong

Thanks, Derek! First up, welcome back to comics, the greatest storytelling medium on the planet! From the sound of it, you're saying you agree with Superior Tony's actions, and you'd do the same immoral things in his liquid-metal-and-symbiote shoes? That's...troubling. But we're glad you're enjoying the ride, Superior Derek :)

Dear Tom Taylor and Mark Paniccia,

I have been a dedicated Iron Man fan for as long as I can remember. I've read and collected a whole pantheon of Stark adventures from David Michelinie and Bob Layton's stellar "Demon in a Bottle" to Matt Fraction's iconic run on Shellhead and I can tell you that I find this new series an absolute TRIUMPH! The one thing I miss in all Tony Stark stories from the past few years is what I like to call the "Robert Downey Jr. element." That rush of excitement you feel when Stark suits up, the thrill of his Playboy presence and above all, his outright swagger! You have brought that element back to the character and I praise and applaud you for that! I have finally found the same thrill and excitement from your storytelling as I got from the first movie! Thank you so much for this memorable series! I've just finished issue #5 and I need more! I am absolutely LOVING the badass element you've given the character, it fits him like a supercharged repulsor gauntlet!

The recurring theme that I get whilst reading this series is that of my favorite show (and frankly greatest television masterpiece of all-time) BREAKING BAD. Not in the way that makes me think that whenever Tony's developing upgrades for his Extremis 3.0 he's doing it in tighty-whities or that Teen Abomination should start wearing super-sized hoodies and a beanie. But in the way that - like the show - it excites and invigorates me to see the "golden boy" (or Avenger) be BAD! Every time he reaches for that bottle or beats the SNOT outta Daredevil I get a buzz that we're gonna get the most badass Superior-Heisenberg moment of all-time!

I am absolutely loving the seamless series! PLEASE continue for

as long as possible because we're all LOVING this new Tony! Thank you also for re-igniting my love for comics!

Jake Eadie, 18
Australia

Damn, Jake. Mentioning some of my personal favorite runs. High praise indeed. Nice to see someone else writing from Australia too! The "swagger" was definitely the first thing we wanted to get right, and Robert Downey Jr.'s portrayal is a great place to go to find it. That swagger is something that Yildray, Felipe and Laura have absolutely captured with raised eyebrows, condescending looks, and maddening grins all the way through. It was important for Tony to still be Tony even when his actions were completely against his previous beliefs. It's the fact that the character is still recognizable, even if he's gone bad, that some people love about the book, and some people, well, let's look at the next letter...

I have a few things to say about the Villainous Iron Man. I think it is laughable that Taylor says he is not a villain. Tony Stark is nothing but a low-down dirty drug dealer.

- He has infected the water supply of a major city with a virus.

- He has assaulted and kidnapped Matt Murdock, and then to top things off, he has screwed with his mind. He has at the very least erased parts of Matt's memory. Who knows what else he has done to Matt's mind and/or body?

- Tony threatened to drop a man to his death (and I do not doubt that he would have killed him) because this grieving father has the audacity to make Tony look bad in front of his drug addled public. I really think that there is no low that the Villainous Iron Man won't stoop to.

(I was wondering why the Avengers have not stepped in to stop him and then I realized that they are not that heroic right now either.)

I have been reading comics since the early sixties. I've read and collected every Iron Man comic since his debut in TALES OF SUSPENSE. I have stayed by Tony's side as he went through "Demon in a Bottle." I suffered through "Teen Tony." I've been there for the good and bad times. Right now the only reason I am reading this travesty is that I want to be there when Tony gets what is coming to him. And I want him to suffer as much as he has made those around him suffer, including me.

Thanks for listening,
Tom Reed

Hi Tom!

Yes. This is one of the bad times for Tony. Yes, he's a villain now (I think I said otherwise early-on before he was too bad). We want to press buttons and create a hero you want to punch in the face.

Some people love to hate this Iron Man. Some people just outright hate this Iron Man. We're deliberately doing things we know will annoy some people and go against the character, but that's because that's what this book is supposed to be. It's exactly what Yildray and I were asked to put forward - a perversion of the hero.

But, don't worry, not many changes in comics are permanent, and I'm sure the hero that you (and I) love will be back eventually. And it should be clear that this book doesn't just contain one Tony now. The good Tony is here too.

Thanks for reading! Hope Superior Tony gets his comeuppance soon!

I just want to thank you for such a Superior comic. This is by far the best comic Marvel has put out in a long while. The art is realistic yet doesn't lose that great comic book style expression on each of the character's faces that I so love. The writing makes you feel like you know the real Tony Stark and I have to say, I absolutely love...to hate him! My only concern with the comic is with issue #5. As a human, Teen Abomination is wearing silver earrings. In the rest of the comic, he's wearing gold, so I assume he changed his earrings, but then in the panel to the right of the HOWARD THE DUCK ad, he's still talking to Tony in the present and he's wearing silver earrings. When I noticed that, my face, matched Tony's on the bottom right of the page. So are those mood earrings that change color with Teen Abomination's emotions? How do you explain that, Marvel?

Philip J. Hanan

Um...when Jamie was transformed into Teen Abomination, an incredible gamma-related chain-reaction turned his earrings from gold to...yeah, I got nothing. Mark Paniccia? This will be explained in SECRET WARS right? That's one of the secrets? Glad you're liking the book, Philip! We'll get that jewelry looked at.

I have been really enjoying SUPERIOR IRON MAN! It is very refreshing to read this story of a familiar but different character. I am enjoying having great conversations about Tony's new personality. My only concern is that this is Tony is to be hated but yet I relate to this Superior Tony Stark. Thank you for this great story and artwork!

Cheers,
David

You're not the first person to say you relate to Superior Tony Stark. I'm glad we could write a book for all those out there who secretly aspire to be a controlling, villainous billionaire. Clearly, there was a gap in the market. Thanks for reading, David!

-Tom Taylor